

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the Abstract with the following amended Abstract:

AI
A node, and a system including a first node, supporting message transport and segmentation in a communications network having a plurality of nodes, comprising a memory including a database for storing a plurality of segmentation support capability test results, wherein the memory further includes a program module adapted to send a first segmented message, a first segmentation support test message, and a first segmentation support response message, and to receive a second segmented message, a second segmentation support test message, and a second segmentation support response message. The system also includes a second node in electronic communication with the first node, wherein the second node is adapted to receive the segmented message and the segmentation support test message, and to send the segmentation support response message including the segmentation support capability result.

~~A method supporting message transport and segmentation in a communications network having a plurality of nodes, comprising the steps of: sending a first segmentation support test message from a first node to a second node, the first and second nodes selected from the plurality of nodes, the first node comprising a memory including a database for storing a plurality of segmentation support capability test results; sending a first segmentation support response message from the second node to the first node in response to receiving the first segmentation support test message, generating a first segmentation support capability test result indicating that the second node is capable of receiving segmented messages; and sending a segmented message from the first node to the second node. If no response is received, a second segmentation support capability test result is generated to indicate that the second node is incapable of supporting segmented messages.~~